NEWS RELEASE

May 19, 2008 at 11 a.m.

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Yakima River levels continue to rise

Richland, Wash: Richland, Wash: Water levels on the Yakima River near Kiona/Benton City are continuing to rise as forecast. The river is now predicted to crest at just over 12 feet on Wednesday, May 21. As of 11 a.m. on Monday, the river level is at 10.45 feet.

Property owners along the river should continue to monitor water levels and take any precautions needed to protect life and property. The high and fast moving water continues to be dangerous. Residents should stay away from the river

The amount of debris in the river is increasing. Boaters on the Columbia should take appropriate precautions.

Local officials will continue to monitor the situation and provide updated information as it becomes available. Up-to-date information is also available on the Benton County Emergency Services website at www.bces.wa.gov.